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INFORMATION REPORT

PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Port Information: Poti

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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[THE OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO CIA FOR IAC DISSEMINATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 3 c OF NSCID #7 (DIO, 8ND No 201-55).]

- The following information is based on personal observations
- Alphabetical Designators In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted on BA Chart No 2236 and referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:

- A. Anchorage; pilot aboard
- B. Berth
- C. Shipyard
- D. Grain Elevator
- E. Soviet destroyers
- F. Soviet destroyers, two, large, new
- G. Soviet minesweepers, large, operating in area
- H. Soviet minesweepers, about 15-20, moored along quay
- I. Soviet "barracks ship"
- J. Soviet freighters, two, about 2500 gross tons, loading coal
- K. Soviet freighters, three, about 2-3000 gross tons, loading coal
- L. Soviet freighter, one, about 2500 gross tons, loading ore

- Approaches and Pilot Data visited subject port 16-17 Aug 55 aboard a 2388 gross tons merchant freighter which arrived in ballast and loaded 4333 metric tons manganese ore. The following schedule of events occurred during vessel's call at subject port:

161000 Aug 55	Vessel arrived and anchored at designator A
1300C hours	Pilot aboard; underway from anchorage
1330C hours	Arrived at berth; control party aboard
1430C hours	Control party ashore
1500C hours	Commenced cargo operations
171200C Aug 55	Completed cargo operations; control party aboard
1220C hours	Control party ashore; pilot aboard, vessel departed berth
1300C hours	Pilot discharged at designator A

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NAVY review

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[redacted] vessel gave customary 24-hour advance notice of arrival. [redacted]

Weather conditions were described as normal during dates of call. Pilotage was described as being of good quality, pilots being older men of long experience who boarded vessel unaccompanied from a small motor launch which exhibited the pilot flag. Tug was used by vessel departing berth only and did not assist vessel through inner harbor.

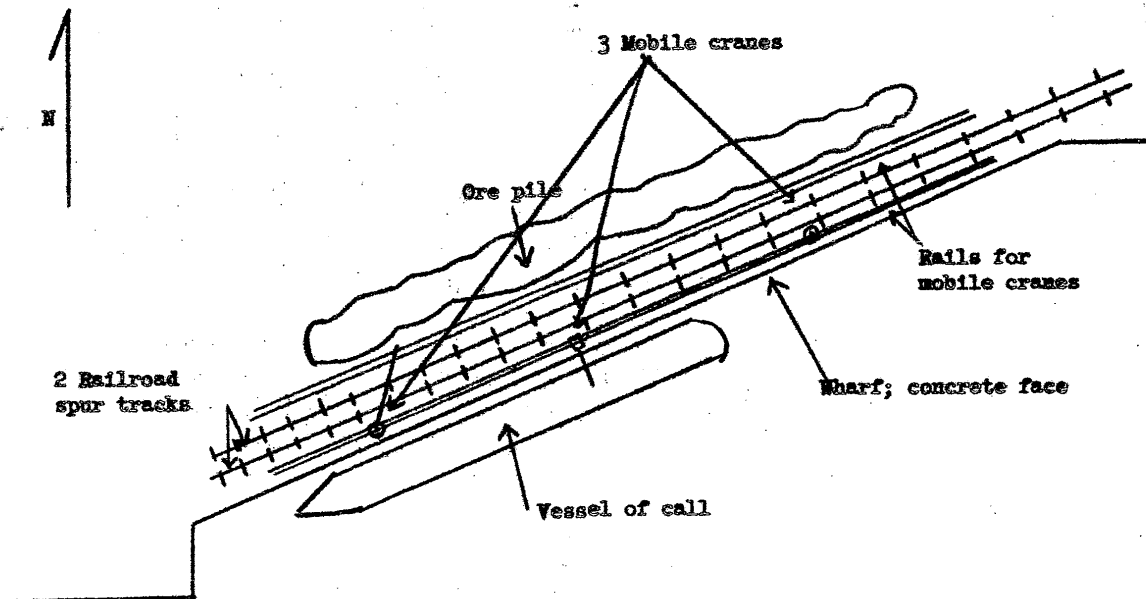
4. Anchorage Anchorage, designator A, was described [redacted] as affording good holding ground and satisfactory for use under normal conditions. [redacted]

5. [redacted]

6. Controls Vessel was permitted to enter subject port harbor without receiving specific instructions concerning port regulations. [redacted] control party which came aboard on arrival and departure of vessel at subject port was composed only of customs, immigration, and health service officials, and that at no time did military personnel come aboard to search vessel or place vessel under surveillance while vessel was in port. Prior to vessel's arrival and on departure, a motor launch escorted vessel from 10 miles offshore to designator A, and from designator A to about 10 miles offshore, respectively; motor launch was described as similar to US Coast Guard launches.

7. Harbor Craft [redacted] only three tugs present in subject port harbor. Tugs were described as "medium sized, motor powered" (unknown if gasoline or diesel) craft in good condition; [redacted] while tugs were in good condition, their crews were inept and apparently not experienced in the use of their craft.

8. Berth Vessel's berth is indicated by designator B; diagram of facilities at berth appears below:



Wharf is of solid concrete construction and was in "usable" condition, apparently having undergone no repair or improvement work in recent years. Cranes shown on diagram consisted of three mobile or "railroad" cranes having a capacity of about 12 tons each, capable of 360° of rotation and a boom length [redacted]

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[redacted] as "long enough to reach across spur tracks" as shown on diagram; cranes located as shown on diagram loaded ore directly from both ore pile and railroad cars into vessel alongside concrete wharf.

9. Construction [redacted] no new construction in subject port and noted that port resembles "prewar" appearance.
10. Naval Installations [redacted] no evidence of new construction of naval base facilities in the area of subject port and had no knowledge of the existence of submarine facilities in the Lake Paliastom area. [redacted] a considerable portion of the inner (harbor) side of South Mole was used for accommodating minesweepers, designator H and paragraph 14.
11. Shipyards Presence of a shipyard, believed to be Malyava Shipyard, was confirmed; however, [redacted] unidentified small vessels were present in the shipyard; [redacted] view of shipyard was obstructed by Soviet naval vessels, designators K and I.
12. Petroleum [redacted] no tank farms, petroleum loading docks, or other petroleum facilities in subject port.
13. Grain [redacted] location of a large grain elevator as shown by designator B; no vessels were alongside grain elevator during dates of call, but [redacted] elevator is "active," that wheat is the grain usually stored and handled. [redacted]
14. Naval Vessels Designator E indicates three Soviet destroyers moored stern-to at entrance to ways of shipyard, designator C; [redacted] characteristics of destroyers [redacted] were probably of World War II vintage, but [redacted] they were painted conventional navy gray and bore white pendant numbers [redacted] Designator F indicates two Soviet destroyers described as "large, brand-new" vessels [redacted]
[redacted] Designator G indicates two Soviet minesweepers which were conducting "conventional sweeping operations" outside the entrance to subject port inner harbor during dates of call; these two minesweepers were described as "large" minesweepers but were not closely observed [redacted] Designator H indicates portion of South Mole where about 15-20 minesweepers were moored in inner harbor; minesweepers moored along South Mole were described as "older, smaller" vessels than were minesweepers indicated by designator G, but all appeared well maintained and naval crews were aboard. Designator I indicates vessel [redacted] an "ex-German passenger ship" of about 15-16 thousand gross tons, now used as a moored, floating barracks for Soviet naval personnel; [redacted] no submarines or other Soviet naval vessels than those described above during dates of call at subject port.
15. Merchant Vessels Designator J indicates two Soviet freighters, each of about 2,500 gross tons, loading coal. Designator K indicates three Soviet freighters of about 2-3000 gross tons, loading coal. Designator L indicates one Soviet freighter of about 2,500 gross tons, loading ore. [redacted] Soviet merchant vessels, designators J, K, and L.
16. [redacted]
17. Miscellaneous [redacted] in respect to the absence of a military boarding and inspection of vessel of call, "relaxed" attitude of business representatives and officials, and general appearance of city and harbor area,

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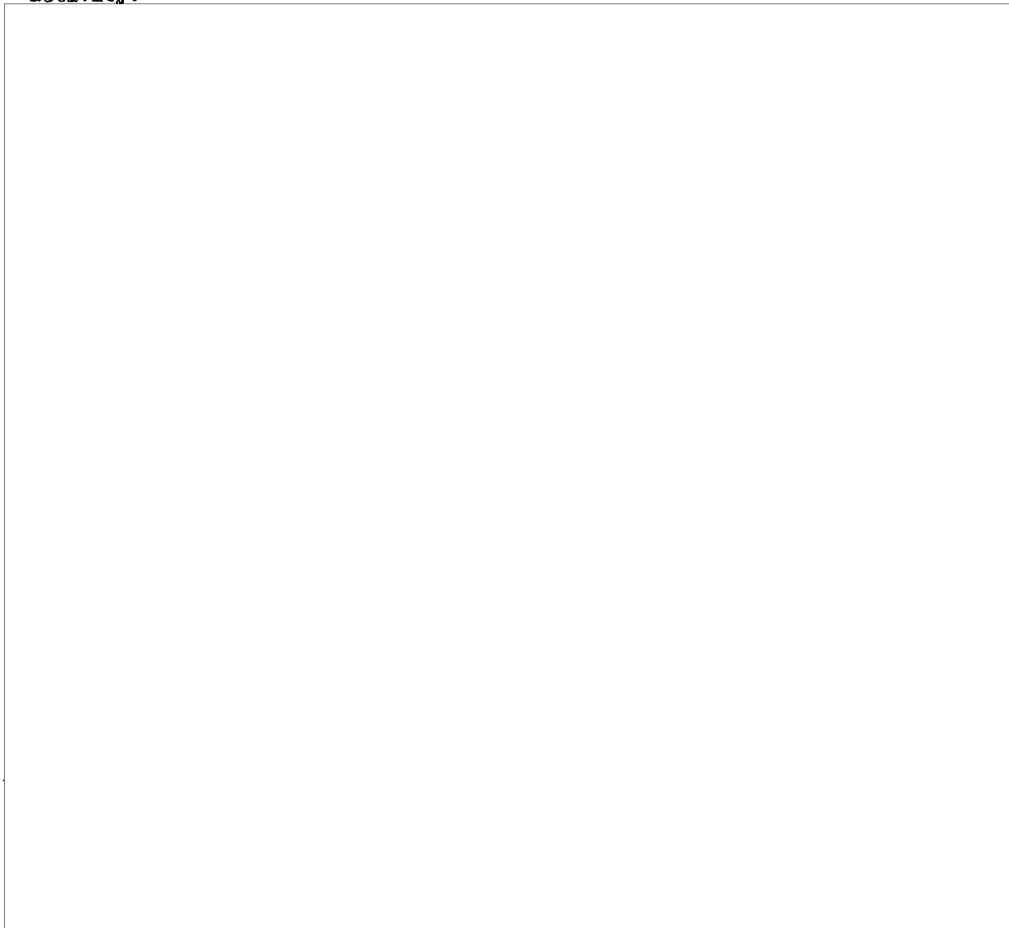
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subject port is much the same as before World War II.  no aircraft, coastal defense installations, or evidence of unusual military activity.

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